TL 6340

MOTION - "Solidarity with the people and Church of East-Timor"

Bearing in mind the following facts:

* the flagrant violation of human rights and the physical and cultural genocide carried out in East-Timor following the invasion and "anexation" by Indonesia, in 1975, and the subsequent war (200.000 dead = 1/3 of the population);

* the resolution passed by the 39th Session of the Commission for Human Rights (16.2.83) which calls for international aid in solving the humanitarian problems arising from the political situation in the territory of East-Timor - a situation to which the international community has expressed its objection;

* the UN General Assembly Resolution 37/30, passed in 1982, which recognizes that the people of East-Timor have not been given an opportunity to carry out a free act of self-determination, in accordance with the Resolution on the independence of colonized peoples (Resolution 1514 LXV, 14.12.60), and in which the international community requested the Secretary General of the UN to try and find a satisfactory solution with the interested parties, namely Portugal as "administrating Power" whose interest in a just solution has been clearly expressed.

* the local Church has been experiencing persecution and martyrdom, as witnessed by letters from religious and priests which have recently got through, with the greatest difficulty, to the outside world; and the reason for this illtreatment appears to be a clear and evangelical option for the poor, for justice and freedom of the people, which means the Church is considered one of the elements of resistance to Indonesian domination;

* members of the Church in East-Timor, and many observers of the situation in that territory, fear there is a temptation for the authorities in Rome to use it as a bargaining counter in exchange for garantees from the Indonesian government for the Church in that country; unfortunately the attitude of the Apostolic Nuntio to Indonesia, and the recent removal of the Apostolic Administrator of Dili diocese (East-Timor), have only served to strengthen these suspicions;

the European Coordination of the YCS-IMCS, at the meeting of the European Committee in Dworp, proposes to

1. Denounce, in each country, before public opinion, the Church and the Government, the abuses and genocide being carried out in East-Timor and condemned, in July, by Amnesty International, and to do so by various means such as campaigns, circulars, letters to influential people, communiqués to the press. In this way we will attempt to awaken the public, the Church and the Governments to the need to support the self-determination of the people of East-Timor in the international fora, in the spirit of UN General Assembly Resolution 37/30.

2. Take an unequivocal and insistent stand on behalf of East-Timor at the Council of Europe, the EEC, and in all international organizations where the YCS qnd the IMCS have a voice. As far as possible these public statements will be made together with other catholic movements and ICO's, such as Pax Christi, etc...

3. Pressure the International Teams of the YCS and especially of the IMCS (which has a filiated movement in Indonesia), to follow similar procedures to those mentioned in 1 and 2.

4. Arouse the attention of the European Church, at every level, to the difficulties being undergone by the Church in East-Timor, to question the Holy See in this respect, and to develop gestures of solidarity which witness to the catholicity of the christian outlook so sorely tried in that isolated territory.

5. Bring to the attention of the Holy See the need to assure that the forthcoming visit of the Pope to Indonesia is not interpreted as a "blessing" to the internal and external violations of human rights by Gen.Suharto's Government, namely by refusing to integrate Dili diocese in the Indonesian Episcopal Conference.

On behalf of the M.C.E.(Portugal)

The National Team

Aprovado por unanimidade no Comité Europeu JEC-MIEC (Dworp, Setembro de 1982)